JOURNALS
OF
CONGRESS,
FROM
MONDAY, November 15th,
TO
SATURDAY, November 20th, 1779,
INCLUSIVE.

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JOURNALS OF CONGRESS.

MONDAY, November 15, 1779.

A LETTER of the 4th from J. Beatty, commiſſary general of priſoners, was read, incloſing a copy of a letter to him from general Silliman and others, priſoners on Long-Iſland:

Ordered, That it be referred to a committee of three;

The members choſen Mr. Fell, Mr. Plater and Mr. Langdon.

A letter of this day from W. Palfrey, paymaſter general, was read; whereupon

Reſolved, That W. Palfrey, eſquire, paymaſter general, have leave of abſence to viſit his family.

The committee on the treaſury brought in a report; whereupon

Ordered, That a warrant iſſue on the treaſurer in favour of Mr. W. Sharpe, one of the delegates for the ſtate of North-Carolina, on his application, for three thouſand dollars; for which the ſaid ſtate is to be accountable:

That a warrant iſſue on the treaſurer in favour of Thomas Bradford, eſquire, deputy commiſſary of priſoners, on the application of John Beatty, eſquire, commiſſary general of priſoners, for fifteen thouſand dollars, for the uſe of his department, and for which the ſaid commiſſary general of priſoners is to be accountable:

That a warrant iſſue on the treaſurer in favour of W. Palfrey, eſquire, paymaſter general, for one million one hundred and fifty thouſand dollars, for the uſe of his department; for which he is to be accountable:

That a warrant iſſue on the treaſurer in favour of Mr. Thomas Ediſon, clerk in the office of the ſecretary of Congreſs, for fifteen hundred dollars, on account of his ſalary:

That a warrant iſſue on the treaſurer in favour of Mr. Chandler Fowke and Mr. Joſeph Scudder, clerks at the war-office, for fifteen hundred dollars each, on account of their ſalary;

That

That on the application of James Wilkinſon, eſquire, cloathier general, counterſigned by the board of war, a warrant iſſue on the treaſurer in favour of the ſaid James Wilkinſon, for one hundred and eighty thouſand dollars, for the uſe of the hide department; for which he is to be accountable:

That a warrant iſſue on the treaſurer in favour of Ephraim Blaine, eſquire, deputy commiſſary general of purchaſes, on his application, for two million dollars, to be charged to the account of Jeremiah Wadſworth, eſquire, commiſſary general of purchaſes, for the uſe of his department; and that he be furniſhed with a copy of this order.

A report from the commiſſioners of the chambers of accounts, on the memorial of Lewis Weiſs, being read:

Ordered, That it be re-committed.

The order of the day being called for, a motion was made by Mr. Gerry ſeconded by Mr. Sherman,

That the order of the day for nominating members to the board of admiralty, be poſtponed until the ſenſe of Congreſs can be taken on the following motion: "Whereas it may be highly injurious to the intereſt of theſe United States to permit candidates for public offices to vote in or otherways influence their own elections: Reſolved, That Congreſs will not appoint any member thereof during the time of his ſitting, or within ſix months after he ſhall have been in Congreſs, to any office under the ſaid ſtates for which he or any other for his benefit may receive any ſalary, fees or other emolument:"

A diviſion being called for, on the queſtion

"That the order of the day for nominating members to the board of admiralty be poſtponed,"

The yeas and nays being required by Mr. Gerry,

New-Hampſhire,	Mr. Peabody,	ay	ay
	Mr. Langdon,	ay	
Maſſachuſetts-Bay,	Mr. Gerry,	ay	ay
	Mr. Lovell,	ay	
	Mr. Holten,	ay	
	Mr. Partridge,	ay	
Connecticut,	Mr. Huntington,	ay	ay
	Mr. Sherman,	ay	
New-York,	Mr. Morris,	ay	ay
	Mr. Lewis,	ay	
New-Jerſey,	Mr. Scudder,	ay	ay
	Mr. Fell,	ay	
Pennſylvania,	Mr. Searle,	no	ay
	Mr. Muhlenberg,	ay	
	Mr. Shippen,	ay	
Maryland,	Mr. Plater,	ay	divided
	Mr. Forbes,	no	
North-Carolina,	Mr. Harnett,	no	no
	Mr. Sharpe,	no	
South-Carolina,	Mr. Matthews,	no	no

So it was reſolved in the affirmative.

On

On the ſecond part of the motion, "until," &c. the previous queſtion was moved by Mr. Forbes and ſeconded by Mr. Morris,

And the yeas and nays being required by Mr. Forbes,

New-Hampſhire,	Mr. Peabody,	no	no
	Mr. Langdon,	no	
Maſſachuſetts-Bay,	Mr. Gerry,	no	no
	Mr. Lovell,	no	
	Mr. Holten,	ay	
	Mr. Partridge,	no	
Connecticut,	Mr. Huntington,	no	no
	Mr. Sherman,	no	
New-York,	Mr. Morris,	ay	ay
	Mr. Lewis,	ay	
New-Jerſey,	Mr. Scudder,	no	divided
	Mr. Fell,	ay	
Pennſylvania,	Mr. Searle,	ay	ay
	Mr. Muhlenberg,	ay	
	Mr. Shippen,	no	
Maryland,	Mr. Plater,	no	divided
	Mr. Forbes,	ay	
North-Carolina,	Mr. Harnett,	ay	ay
	Mr. Sharpe,	ay	
South-Carolina,	Mr. Matthews,	ay	ay

So it was reſolved in the affirmative,

And that part of the main queſtion was ſet aſide.

Several gentlemem were then put in nomination for commiſſioners of the board of admiralty.

The committee to whom was referred the memorial of captain Charles de Frey, brought in a report; whereupon

Reſolved, That captain Charles de Frey have leave of abſence for eight months.

Congreſs took into conſideration the report of the committee on the plan for the eſtabliſhment of courts of appeals for determining captures on water, and ſome time being ſpent thereon,

Ordered, That the farther conſideration thereof be poſtponed.

The committee to whom were referred the repreſentation from the legiſlative council and general aſſembly of New-Jerſey, and the proceedings of a convention of committees from the eaſtern ſtates to New-York, incluſive, at their meeting in Hartford in the ſtate of Connecticut, on the 20th of October laſt, brought in a report, which was read:

Ordered, That the ſame be taken into conſideration on Thurſday next.

Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow.

TUESDAY, November 16, 1779.

Mr. Philip Schuyler, a delegate for the ſtate of New-York, attended and produced a notification of his appointment, which was read as follows:

"State

"State of NEW-YORK. Camp, Head-Quarters, Fish-
"Kill, October 29, 1779.

"I do hereby certify, that the honorable Philip Schuyler, eſ-
"quire, is duly nominated and appointed one of the delegates of
"this ſtate in the Congreſs of the United States of America:
"and that his being unprovided with a commiſſion in due form
"of law, is owing to my being in Camp, whereby I am incapa-
"citated to put the ſeal to it at preſent; but that the ſame will
"be expedited to him with all poſſible diſpatch.

"GEORGE CLINTON, governor.

"Atteſt. ROBERT BENSON, ſecretary."

A letter of the 5th from the governor of Rhode-Iſland was read.

The marine committee having communicated to Congreſs a paragraph of a letter from J. Beatty, commiſſary general of priſoners, informing "that there are ſome Spaniards on board the priſon ſhip at New-York, whoſe neceſſities call for our ſupport:" thereupon

Reſolved, That the commiſſary general of priſoners be directed, until the further order of Congreſs, to make the ſame proviſion for the Spaniſh priſoners in New-York as is made for the priſoners of the United States, keeping a ſeparate account thereof.

The committee to whom was referred the letter of the 21ſt of September laſt from the council of Maſſachuſetts-Bay, report the following reſolution:

"That although Congreſs have the higheſt ſenſe of the zeal and exertions of the ſtate of Maſſachuſetts-Bay, in the common cauſe, and are at all times diſpoſed to give them every poſſible proof thereof, yet in the preſent ſituation of the general treaſury, and from the preſſing neceſſity of a full and punctual payment of the taxes required for the proſecution of the war, their requeſt to retain the ſix millions of dollars, mentioned in their letter of the 21ſt of September laſt, cannot be complied with:"

On the queſtion to agree to the ſaid reſolution, the yeas and nays being required by Mr. Gerry,

New-Hampſhire,	Mr. Peabody,	no	divided
	Mr. Langdon,	ay	
Maſſachuſetts Bay,	Mr. Gerry,	no	no
	Mr. Lovell,	no	
	Mr. Holten,	no	
	Mr. Partridge,	no	
Connecticut,	Mr. Huntington,	ay	ay
	Mr. Sherman,	ay	
New-York,	Mr. Schuyler,	ay	ay
	Mr. Morris,	ay	
	Mr. Lewis,	ay	
New-Jerſey,	Mr. Scudder,	ay	ay
	Mr. Fell,	ay	
Pennſylvania,	Mr. Searle,	ay	ay
	Mr. Muhlenberg,	ay	

Delaware,

Delaware,	Mr. M'Kean,	ay	ay
Maryland,	Mr. Plater,	ay	ay
	Mr. Forbes,	ay	
Virginia,	Mr. Griffin,	ay	*
North-Carolina,	Mr. Harnett,	ay	ay
	Mr. Sharpe,	ay	
South-Carolina,	Mr. Matthews,	ay	ay

So it was reſolved in the affirmative.

A memorial from B. Flower, commiſſary general of military ſtores, was read:

Ordered, That it be referred to the committee appointed to conſider what allowance ought to be made to the officers in the different departments of the army, to whom the proviſion of the 18th of Auguſt does not extend:

Ordered, That a member be added to the ſaid committee in the room of Mr. Atlee;

The member choſen Mr. Schuyler.

Reſolved, That two members be added to the committee on the muſtermaſter general's department, in the room of Mr. Laurens and Mr. Spencer, who are abſent;

The members choſen Mr. Partridge and Mr. Langdon.

The committee on the quartermaſter and commiſſary general's departments laid before Congreſs a letter of the 1ſt and one of the 9th from J. Wadſworth, commiſſary general of purchaſes; whereupon

Reſolved, That the rum and ſugar belonging to the public be delivered over to the committee on the commiſſary and quartermaſter general's departments, to be diſpoſed of in ſuch manner as they may from time to time direct, excepting ſuch parts thereof as the marine committee may think neceſſary for the uſe of the continental navy.

Ordered, That the letter of the 9th be referred to the board of treaſury.

The committee on the treaſury brought in a report; whereupon

Ordered, That a warrant iſſue on the treaſurer in favour of Mr. Langdon, one of the delegates for the ſtate of New-Hampſhire, on his application, for four thouſand dollars; for which the ſaid ſtate is to be accountable:

That a warrant iſſue on the treaſurer in favour of Mr. Benjamin Armitage, ſuperintendant of the paper mill, for one thouſand five hundred dollars, on his application; for which he is to be accountable:

That a warrant iſſue on the treaſurer in favour of Richard Philips, ſteward to the preſident of Congreſs, for five thouſand dollars; for which he is to be accountable.

The commiſſioners report,

That there is due to the reverend Mr. White, his ſalary as chaplain to Congreſs, from the 1ſt of October, 1778, to the 1ſt of October, 1779, together with his allowance of rations, one thouſand and eighty-five dollars:

That there is due to Thomas W. Collins, for engroſſing commiſſions, two hundred dollars:

Ordered, That the ſaid accounts be paid.

A report from the board of war was read; whereupon

Reſolved, That in addition to the ſub cloathiers appointed by virtue of the ordinance of the 23d of March, 1779, for regulating the cloathing department, the cloathier general, with the approbation of the board of war and the commander in chief, appoint a ſub-cloathier to receive from the cloathier general and the ſeveral ſub ſtate cloathiers the proportion of cloathing aſſigned the artillery, cavalry, artificers and corps compoſed of troops from different ſtates, according to the general eſtimate, and to cauſe ſuch cloathing to be diſtributed to the officers and ſoldiers of the ſeveral corps aforeſaid, and in all other reſpects to govern his conduct in the execution of the ſaid buſineſs agreeably to the regulation of Congreſs of the 23d of March, 1779, reſpecting the ſub cloathiers.

Reſolved, That it be recommended to the ſeveral ſtates to allow the corps of artificers eſtabliſhed by Congreſs the 12th inſtant, all the benefits provided for officers and ſoldiers in the line of their quotas of the continental battalions, except the half pay:

That the commanding officer of the corps of artificers ſhall be allowed the ſame pay and ſubſiſtance as a lieutenant colonel:

That the allowance of pay, ſubſiſtance and cloathing of the other officers and men of the ſaid artificers, be the ſame with that of the artillery artificers under the command of colonel B. Flower.

Reſolved, That the board of war be diſcharged from proceeding on the caſe of captain George Cavey, and that the ſame be referred to the marine committee.

A letter of this day from colonel S. Atlee was read:

Ordered, That it be referred to the board of treaſury.

Ordered, That the letter of the 27th of October laſt from major general Gates be referred to the board of war.

Ordered, That the memorial of Mr. Bowen be re-committed to the marine committee.

The medical committee, to whom were referred the reſolutions of the 27th of October, reſpecting the officers of the hoſpital department, together with the report of the ſaid committee on the ſaid department, which was re-committed, brought in a report:

Ordered, That the ſame be taken into conſideration on Friday next.

On motion of Mr. Gerry ſeconded by Mr. Lovell,

Reſolved, That the deputy ſecretary of Congreſs be allowed at the rate of ten thouſand dollars per annum, until the further order of Congreſs.

According to order Congreſs proceeded to the election of a deputy ſecretary, and the ballots being taken,

Mr. George Bond was elected.

Mr. David Mumford was put in nomination for a commiſſioner of the board of admiralty by Mr. Root.

Reſolved, That Monday next be aſſigned for electing commiſſioners of the board of admiralty.

The committee to whom was referred the letter of the 25th of October laſt from doctor J. Morgan, brought in a report; whereupon

Reſolved,

Reſolved, That it be recommended to the executive authority of the reſpective ſtates, upon the application of the judge advocate for that purpoſe, to grant proper writs requiring and compelling the perſon or perſons whoſe attendance ſhall be requeſted by the ſaid judge, to appear and give teſtimony in any cauſe depending before a court-martial; and that it be recommended to the legiſlatures of the ſeveral ſtates to veſt the neceſſary powers for the purpoſes aforeſaid in their executive authorities, if the ſame be not already done.

Reſolved, That in caſes not capital in trials in courts-martial, depoſitions may be given in evidence, provided the proſecutor and perſon accuſed are preſent at the taking the ſame.

On motion of Mr. Langdon ſeconded by Mr. Morris,

Reſolved, That the marine committee be authoriſed from time to time to appoint advocates for the purpoſe of taking care of and managing the maritime cauſes in which the United States are or may be concerned.

Ordered, That Mr. Langdon have leave of abſence.

Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow.

WEDNESDAY, November 17, 1779.

According to order, the honourable chevalier de la Luzerne, miniſter plenipotentiary of his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty, was introduced to an audience by Mr. Matthews and Mr. Morris, the two members for that purpoſe appointed, and being ſeated in his chair, the ſecretary of the embaſſy delivered to the preſident a letter from his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty, directed on the out ſide, "A nos tres chers grands Amis et Allies, le Preſident et membres du Congres general des Etats Unis de l' Amerique ſeptentrionale;" and which is in the following words;

Tres Chers Grands Amis et Allies.

LE mauvais etat de la ſante du Sieur Gerard, notre Miniſtre Plenipotentiare, aupres de vous, l'ayant mis dans la neceſſite de demander ſon rapel, Nous avons fait choix pour le remplacer en la meme qualite du Sieur Chevalier de la Luzerne, Colonel a notre ſervice. Nous ne doutons pas que ſa perſonne ne vous ſoit agreable, et que vous ne lui accordiez une entiere confiance. Nous vous prions d'ajouter foi a tout ce qu'il vous dira de notre part, ſurtout lorſqu'il vous aſſurera de la ſincerite des voeux que Nous faiſons pour votre proſperite, ainſi que de la conſtance de notre affection, et de notre amitie pour les Etats unis en general, et pour chacun d'eux en particulier. Sur ce nous prions Dieu qu'il vous ait tres chers grands amis et allies en ſa ſainte et digne garde.

Ecrit a Verſailles, le 31 Mai, 1779.

Votre bon ami et allie,

LOUIS.

GRAVIER DE VERGENNES.

(TRANSLATION.)

To our very dear great Friends and Allies the Preſident and Members of the General Congreſs of the United States of North-America,

Very dear Great Friends and Allies,

THE bad ſtate of health of the ſieur Gerard, our miniſter plenipotentiary to you, having laid him under the neceſſity of applying for a recal, we have made choice of the chevalier de la Luzerne, a colonel in our ſervice, to ſupply his place. We have no doubt but he will be agreeable to you and that you will repoſe entire confidence in him. We pray you to give full credit to all he ſhall ſay to you on our behalf, eſpecially when he ſhall aſſure you of the ſincerity of our wiſhes for your proſperity, as well as of the conſtancy of our affection and of our friendſhip for the United States in general, and for each one of them in particular. We pray God to keep you, our very dear, great friends and allies, in his holy protection.

Done at Verſailles, the 31ſt May, 1779.

Your good Friend and Ally,

(Signed) LOUIS.

(Underneath) GRAVIER DE VERGENNES.

The miniſter was then announced to the houſe; whereupon he aroſe and addreſſed Congreſs, in a ſpeech, which, when he had finiſhed, the ſecretary delivered in writing to the preſident, and is as follows:

MESSIEURS,

LA ſageſſe et le courage qui ont fondè votre republique, la prudence qui preſide a vos deliberations, votre fermete dans l'execution, l'l'abilite et la valeur que vos Generaux et vos ſoldats ont deploiees dans le cours de cette guerre, ont attirè ſur vous l'admiration et les regards du monde entire. Le Roi, mon Maitre a reconnu le premier une liberte acquiſe parmi tant de perils et avec autant de gloire. Depuis que des traites dictes par le moderation ont erabli ſur une baſe inebranlable l'union de la France avec la republique Americaine, toute la conduite de ſa Majeſte a du vous prouver combien votre proſperite lui eſt chere, et la ſerme reſolu tion ou elle eſt de maintenir votre independence par tous les moyens qui ſont en ſon pouvoir. Les evenemens qui ſe ſont developes ſucceſſivement ont prouvè la ſageſſe de ces meſures. Un allie puiſſant a reconnu la juſtice des motifs qui ont force le Roi a prendre les armes, et on peut avec raiſon ſe promettre les ſucces les plus ſolides des operations des deux flottes reunies. Les forces navales de notre enemi ont ètè detournees de votre continent. Contraint d'accourir a la defenſe de ſes propres poſſeſſions, tous ſes efforts n'ont pu empecher nos troupes d'en conquerir une partie conſiderable. Les autres iſles Angloiſes redoutoient le meme ſort, lorſque le General francois a interrompu le cours de ſes ſucces pour venir chercher parmi vous, de nouveaux dangers. En ſe conformant aux intentions de ſa Majeſte, il a cede a ſon propre penchant, au deſir des Francoiſes et aux voeux des Americains, qui l'invitoient a joindre ſes armes a celles

de

de votre republique. Les evenements n'ont pas repondu completement a ſon courage, et a ſes efforts ; mais ſon ſang et celui de mes compatriotes, repandu pour une cauſe qui nous eſt ſi chere a cimentè la baſe ſur laquelle l' alliance eſt fondèe, et lui imprime un nouveau caractere, auſſi inalterable que tous ceux qui l' ont deja conſacrè.

Cette alliance, Meſſieurs, devient de jour en jour plus indiſſoluble, et les avantages que les deux nations en retirent, l' onportee au plus haut point de conſiſtance. Des relations de commerce entre les ſubjects du Roi mon maitre, et les habitants des treize Etats unis ſe multiplent continuellement. et deja l' on peut obſerver malgre les obſtacles qui embaraſſent la communication reciproque, combien elle eſt naturelle, combien elle deviendra profitable aux deux nations, et a toutes celles qui y prendront part, et combien les principes excluſifs, l'attention jalouſe les loix prohibitives de l' ennemi de votre liberte ont ètè prejudiciable a votre bonheur.

C'eſt dans ces conjonctures, Meſſieurs, que le Roi a bien volu me deſigner pour remplir aupres de vous les fonctions de ſon Miniſtre plenipotentiare, et vous avez trouve dans la lettre que je viens d'avoir l'honneur de vous remetre de ſa part de neuvelles aſſurances de l'amitie qu'il a pour vous. J'ai regardè comme la plus heureuſe circonſtance de ma vie, une miſſion dans le cours de la quelle je ſuis ſur de remplir mes devoirs, en travaillant a votre proſperite, et je me ſuis felicitè d'etre envoie pres d'une nation dont les interets ſont ſi etroitement lies aux notres que je ue puiſſe etre utile ou a la France, ou a la republique Americaine, ſans me rendre agreable a la fois a l'une et a l'autre.

Il eut ètè ſans doute a deſirer que les affaires dont je ſuis charge fuſſent reſtees entre les mains du miniſtre eclairè auquel je ſuccede, et que ſa ſante oblige a retourner en France; je n'ai point ſes lumieres; mais j'ai comme lui un zele ſans bornes, pour le bien et le ſucces de la cauſe commune. Je ſuis chargè, comme lui de coucurir a tout ce qui pourra etre agreable et utile a votre republique; j'ai le meme attachment pour le people que vous repreſentes, Meſſieurs, et la meme admiration pour leur conduite. J'ai le plus grand empreſſement de vous en donner des preuves, et j'eſpere que ces differens titres me conduiront a meriter votre confiance et votre eſtime.

LE CHE. DE LA LUZERNE.

(TRANSLATION.)

GENTLEMEN,

THE wiſdom and courage which have founded your republic; the prudence which preſides over your deliberations; your firmneſs in execution; the ſkill and valor diſplayed by your generals and ſoldiers, during the courſe of the war, have attracted the admiration and regard of the whole world. The King, my maſter, was the firſt to acknowledge a liberty acquired midſt ſo many perils and with ſo much glory. Since treaties dictated by moderation have fixed upon a permanent baſe the union of France with the American republic, his majeſty's whole conduct muſt have demonſtrated how dearly he tenders your proſperity, and his firm reſolution to maintain your independenc

pendence by every means in his power. The events which have ſucceſſively unfolded themſelves ſhew the wiſdom of thoſe meaſures. A powerful ally hath acknowledged the juſtice of thoſe motives which had compelled the king to take arms, and we may reaſonably hope for the moſt ſolid ſucceſs, from the operations of the united fleets. The naval force of the enemy hath been diverted from your continent. Compelled to flee to the defence of their own poſſeſſions, all their efforts have been too feeble to prevent our troops from conquering a conſiderable part. The other Britiſh Iſlands feared the ſame lot, when the French general ſtopped the current of his ſucceſs, to ſeek new dangers here. In conforming to his Majeſty's intentions, he has complied with his own inclinations, the deſires of the French, and the requeſt of the Americans, which invited him to join his arms to thoſe of your republic. Events have not completely anſwered his courage and his efforts, but his blood and that of my countrymen, ſhed in a cauſe ſo dear to us, hath cemented the baſe on which the alliance is founded, and impreſſed on it a character as indelible as are all thoſe by which it is already conſecrated.

That alliance, gentlemen, becomes daily more indiſſoluble, andthe benefits which the two nations derive from it, have given it the moſt perfect conſiſtence. The relations of commerce between the ſubjects of the king, my maſter, and the inhabitants of the Thirteen United States continually multiply; and we may already perceive, in ſpite of thoſe obſtacles which embarraſs the reciprocal communication, how natural it is, how advantageous it will be to the two nations and all who participate in it, and how much the monopolizing ſpirit, the jealous attention and prohibitory edicts of the enemy to your freedom, have been prejudical to your happineſs.

It is under theſe circumſtances, gentlemen, that the king, my maſter, hath been pleaſed to appoint me his miniſter plenipotentiary to you. You have ſeen in the letter which I had juſt now the honour to deliver from him, freſh aſſurances of his friendſhip. I conſider as the happieſt circumſtance of my life, a miſſion in the courſe of which I am certain of fulfilling my duty when I labour for your proſperity; and I felicitate myſelf upon being ſent to a nation whoſe intereſts are ſo intimately blended with our own, that I can be uſeful neither to France nor the American republic, without rendering myſelf agreeable both to the one and to the other.

It was certainly deſirable that the affairs with which I am charged, had remained in the hands of that enlightened miniſter whom I ſucceed, and whoſe health compels him to return to France. I have not his abilities, but like him, I have an unbounded zeal for the welfare and ſucceſs of the common cauſe; like him I am directed to concur in every thing which can be uſeful or agreeable to your republic. I have the ſame attachment to the people you, gentlemen, repreſent, and the ſame admiration of their conduct. I have the moſt fervent wiſh to give you proofs of it, and I hope by theſe different titles to merit your confidence and your eſteem.

LE CHE. DE LA LUZERNE.

To

To which the Preſident returned the following anſwer.

SIR,

THE early attention of our good friend and ally to theſe United States is gratefully felt by all their virtuous citizens; and we ſhould be unfaithful repreſentatives if we did not warmly acknowledge every inſtance of his regard, and take every opportunity of expreſſing the attachment of our conſtituents to treaties formed upon the pureſt principles.

His Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty, in rendering himſelf protector of the rights of mankind, became entitled to aſſiſtance from the friends of man. This title could not but be recognized by a monarch whoſe diadem is adorned with equity and truth: That monarch by joining his arms to thoſe of our great ally hath given a fatal blow to the common enemy; and from the juſtneſs of the motives which unite the combined fleets, we expect the moſt ſolid benefits will crown their operations; nor can we doubt that other powers will rejoice to ſee that haughty nation humbled in proportion as they have been inſulted by her preſumptious arrogance.

We well know, and all the world muſt acknowledge the moderation and friendſhip of the Moſt Chriſtian King, in neglecting conqueſts which courted his acceptance for the benevolent pleaſure of ſuccouring his allies. In this as in every other inſtance, we perceive his ſtrict adherence to the principles of our defenſive alliance. We are ſenſible of the zeal of the French general, in executing his Majeſty's orders. We eſteem his courage, we lamen this wounds, and we reſpect that generous valour which hath led your countrymen to contend with ours in the ſame common cauſe, in the ſame field of glory. A noble emulation which hath poured out the blood of the two nations, and mingled it together as a ſacred pledge of perpetual union!

The conſequences which have followed from the appearance of the French fleet upon our coaſts, particularly by diſconcerting the enemy's plans of operation, and deſtroying a conſiderable part of their naval force, demonſtrate the wiſdom of the meaſure. That they have not been ſtill more beneficial, is to be attributed to thoſe incidents which in the hand of Omnipotence determine all human events: But our diſappointment is compenſated by reflecting on the perfect harmony that ſubſiſted between the generals and the troops of the two nations.

The proſperous courſe of this campaign gives a pleaſing hope that the moment of peace may ſoon arrive, when the reciprocation of mutual good offices ſhall amply recompence our mutual labours and cares; and we doubt not, but in that moment the commerce between the allied nations, now ſtruggling under great inconveniencies, will ſhoot forth with vigor and advantage, and happily demonſtrate the injuries we once ſuffered from the reſtraints of our enemies.

While we lament, Sir, the loſs of your worthy predeceſſor, we are led from your perſonal character to the pleaſing expectation that you will poſſeſs that confidence and eſteem which he enjoyed. They are due to the ſervant of our benefactor: We are happy in his choice, and being thoroughly convinced of the intimate

mate connection between the intereſts and views of the allied nations, we cannot but perſuade ourſelves that the more attentively you ſhall perform your duty to your ſovereign, and the more ſedulouſly you ſhall guard and promote the welfare of your country, the more agreeable and reſpectable you will render yourſelf to the citizens of America.

The ſecretary of Congreſs delivered to the miniſter a copy of the foregoing reply dated in Congreſs, November 17, 1779, and ſigned Samuel Huntington, preſident. Whereupon the miniſter withdrew, and was conducted home in the ſame manner in which he was brought to the houſe.

The committee on the treaſury brought in a report; whereupon

Reſolved, That five million and forty dollars be emitted on the faith of the United States, and under the direction of the board of treaſury, in bills of credit of the following denominations, viz.

13158	bills of	65 dollars,	855270
13158	do.	of 60 do.	789480
13158	do.	of 55 do.	723690
13158	do.	of 50 do.	657900
13158	do.	of 45 do.	592110
13158	do.	of 40 do.	526320
13158	do.	of 35 do.	460530
13158	do.	of 30 do.	394740
			5000040

That the ſaid bills, excepting the numbers, be of the ſame tenor and date as the emiſſions directed on the 17th of September laſt, and be numbered from the laſt number in every denomination progreſſively.

Reſolved, That the farther ſum of five million fifty thouſand and five hundred dollars be emitted on the faith of the United States, and under the direction of the board of treaſury, in bills of credit of the following denominations, viz.

27300	bills of	80	dollars	2184000
27300	do.	of 70	do.	1911000
27300	do.	of 20	do.	546000
27300	do.	of 5	do.	136500
27300	do.	of 4	do.	109200
27300	do.	of 3	do.	81900
27300	do.	of 2	do.	54600
27300	do.	of 1	do.	27300
				5050500

That the ſaid bills, excepting the numbers, be of the ſame tenor and date as thoſe emitted the 14th of October laſt, and be numbered from the laſt number in every denomination progreſſively.

On motion of Mr. Witherſpoon ſeconded by Mr. Morris,

Reſolved, That a committee of five be appointed to deviſe further ways and means for ſupplying the public treaſury;

The

The members choſen Mr. Gerry, Mr. Witherſpoon, Mr. Morris, Mr. Matthews and Mr. Sherman.

Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow.

THURSDAY, November 18, 1779.

A letter of the 14th from general Waſhington was read; whereupon

Reſolved, That the preſident inform general Waſhington, that Congreſs approve the ſentiments and opinion expreſſed in his letter of the 14th inſtant, and deſire that he may take what meaſures he thinks moſt proper upon the intelligence he muſt have by this time received.

A memorial from the general officers ſerving in the army of the United States was read:

Ordered, That it be referred to the committee appointed to conſider what allowance ought to be made to the officers in the different departments of the army to whom the proviſion of the 18th of Auguſt laſt doth not extend.

A letter of the 15th from Charles Pettit, aſſiſtant quartermaſter general, was read, accompanied with a number of papers:

Ordered, That the ſame be referred to the committee on further ways and means of ſupplying the treaſury.

A letter of the 29th of October from colonel Safford was read, incloſing a letter of the 21ſt of the ſame month from Jacob Safford, an enſign in colonel Warner's regiment, requeſting leave to reſign:

Reſolved, That the reſignation of enſign Jacob Safford be accepted.

A letter of baron de Bonſtelten was read, accompanied with ſundry papers:

Ordered, That the ſame be referred to the board of war.

A letter of this day from W. Palfrey was read:

Ordered, That it be referred to the board of treaſury.

Ordered, That Mr. Dickinſon have leave of abſence.

The committee on the treaſury brought in a report; whereupon

Ordered, That on the application of Mr. C. Harnett, a delegate for the ſtate of North-Carolina, a warrant iſſue on the treaſurer in favour of Joſiah Hewes, adminiſtrator of J. Hewes, late deceaſed, for three thouſand dollars; for which the ſtate of North-Carolina is to be accountable.

According to order Congreſs took into conſideration the report of the committee on the repreſentation from the legiſlative council and general aſſembly of New-Jerſey, and the proceedings of the convention of commiſſioners at Hartford, and ſome time being ſpent thereon,

Ordered, That the farther conſideration thereof be poſtponed till to-morrow.

Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow.

FRIDAY, November 19, 1779.

The committee on the treaſury brought in a report; whereupon

Ordered,

Ordered, That a warrant iſſue on the treaſurer in favour of Mr. Aaron D. Woodruff, one of the clerks in the office of the ſecretary of Congreſs, for one thouſand dollars on account of his ſalary.

A report of the board war was read, reſpecting priſoners of war:

Ordered, That the ſame be taken into conſideration on Tueſday next.

The committee appointed to deviſe further ways and means of ſupplying the treaſury brought in a report, which was read.

Congreſs reſumed the conſideration of the report of the committee on the repreſentation of the legiſlative council and general aſſembly of New-Jerſey, and the proceedings of the convention of commiſſioners from the five eaſtern ſtates, and thereupon came to the following reſolutions:

Whereas the fluctuating ſtate of prices not only cauſes inequality and injuſtice in private dealings, and in furniſhing the public ſupplies from the ſeveral ſtates, but renders it impracticable to make the proper eſtimates for future expences, and to fix equitable ſalaries for thoſe employed in the ſervice of the United States: and whereas the eſtimates, according to which the requiſitions for the taxes of the ſucceeding year have been made by the reſolution of the 6th of October laſt, have been formed on the principle, that the prices of commodities neceſſary for the public uſe would not exceed twenty fold of the former prices, and ſhould they riſe above that rate the taxes muſt be accordingly encreaſed, but ſhould they fall below it the ſurplus of the ſum raiſed may be applied to the ſinking fund: therefore

Reſolved, That it be earneſtly recommended to the ſeveral ſtates forthwith to enact laws for eſtabliſhing and carrying into execution a general limitation of prices throughout their reſpective juriſdictions, on the following principles, and to commence in their operation from the firſt day of February next.

Articles of domeſtic produce, farming and common labour, the wages of tradeſmen and mechanicks, water and land-carriage not to exceed twenty fold of the prices current through the various ſeaſons of the year 1774.

Articles imported from foreign parts to be in due proportion with labour and the articles as above ſtated, making a proper allowance for freight, inſurance and other charges.

Salt and military ſtores, whether of home manufacture, or imported from abroad, to be excepted from limitation of price.

Reſolved, That it be recommended to the ſeveral ſtates to enact ſtrict laws againſt engroſſing and withholding; and to take the neceſſary meaſures for having the ſame carried into full execution.

Reſolved, That the proceedings of the commiſſioners from the eaſtern ſtates to New-York inclusive, at their meeting in Hartford in Connecticut on the 20th of October laſt, diſcover a generous attention to the public good, and are well calculated to promote the ſame: it is nevertheleſs expected that no time will be loſt in giving effect to theſe reſolutions, as the ſame general purpoſe may thereby be attained and at an earlier period. Reſolved,

Reſolved, That all officers and agents employed in making purchaſes for the United States be directed to conform ſtrictly to all regulations that are or may be eſtabliſhed in the ſeveral ſtates:

That accounts be kept and returns made by all perſons employed to make purchaſes in behalf of the United States, or to hire veſſels, carriages or men for the ſervice of the ſame; of the prices by them reſpectively given in ſuch ſtates as ſhall not before the firſt day of February, 1780, paſs laws for the limitation of prices agreeable to the recommendation contained in the foregoing reſolutions; to the intent that ſuch ſtates as ſhall have neglected to paſs laws for the purpoſes aforeſaid may reſpectively be charged in the public accounts with the agregate amount of the difference of prices paid from and after the ſaid firſt day of Februry, 1780, in ſuch ſtates and thoſe in which ſuch laws may have been enacted.

The laſt reſolution reported by the committee being read, viz. "That it be recommended to the legiſlatures of the ſeveral ſtates "to reviſe their laws for making the paper currency a tender in "the payment of debts, and ſo to frame them that injuſtice to "creditors and debtors may be prevented:" and an amendment being moved by Mr. Witherſpoon ſeconded by Mr. Forbes, by adding the words "and that the injuſtice, which has already ta-"ken place may be remedied as far as may be practicable:"

A motion was made by Mr. Gerry ſeconded by Mr. Matthews, that the conſideration of that part of the report and the amendment be poſtponed;

On which the yeas and nays being required by Mr. Forbes,

New-Hampſhire,	Mr. Peabody,	ay	divided
	Mr. Langdon,	no	
Maſſachuſetts-Bay,	Mr. Gerry,	ay	ay
	Mr. Lovell,	ay	
	Mr. Holten,	ay	
	Mr. Partridge,	ay	
Rhode-Iſland,	Mr. Marchant,	no	no
Connecticut,	Mr. Huntington,	no	no
	Mr. Sherman,	no	
	Mr. Root,	no	
New-York,	Mr. Schuyler,	ay	divided
	Mr. Lewis,	no	
New-Jerſey,	Mr. Witherſpoon,	ay	ay
	Mr. Scudder,	ay	
	Mr. Fell,	no	
	Mr. Houſton,	ay	
Pennſylvania,	Mr. Searle,	ay	ay
	Mr. Muhlenberg,	ay	
	Mr. Shippen,	ay	
Maryland,	Mr. Plater,	ay	divided
	Mr. Forbes,	no	
Virginia,	Mr. Griffin,	no	*
North-Carolina,	Mr. Harnett,	ay	ay
	Mr. Sharpe,	ay	
South-Carolina,	Mr. Matthews,	ay	ay

So it was reſolved in the affirmative.

Reſolved

Reſolved, That the report of the medical committee, on the hoſpital ſtaff, be poſtponed till to-morrow, and that the ſame be taken into conſideration immediately after reading the journal.

Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow.

SATURDAY, November 20, 1779.

Mr. J. M'Clene, a delegate for the ſtate of Pennſylvania, attended and took his ſeat in Congreſs.

Mr. R. R. Livingſton, a delegate for the ſtate of New-York, attended and produced the credentials of his appointment, which were read as follows:

"The People of the ſtate of NEW-YORK, by the grace "of God free and independent, To All to whom theſe Preſents "ſhall come, ſend Greeting.

"Whereas our ſenate and aſſembly having, at their late meeting, held at Kingſton in our county of Ulſter, by concurrent reſolutions, declared, that a ſpecial occaſion did now exiſt in which the chancellor and judges of the ſupreme court might be elected delegates to the general Congreſs of the United States of North-America, and that of the ſaid chancellor and judges one ſhould be elected a delegate on ſuch ſpecial occaſion, did thereafter at the ſaid meeting, by concurrent proceedings, nominate and appoint Robert R. Livingſton, eſquire, our chancellor of our ſaid ſtate, a delegate to repreſent the ſame in the ſaid general Congreſs of the United States of North-America, on ſuch ſpecial occaſion, to continue in office until the firſt day of April next: Now therefore, know ye, that in purſuance of ſuch nomination and appointment, we do, by theſe preſents, commiſſionate the ſaid Robert R. Livingſton, eſquire, a delegate to repreſent this our ſtate in the ſaid general Congreſs of the United States of North-America, on the preſent ſpecial occaſion; and do hereby authoriſe him to hold and exerciſe all the powers and authorities to the office or place of delegate belonging, by virtue of the conſtitution of this our ſtate, and the nomination and appointment aforeſaid: to have and to hold the ſaid office or place of delegate upon the preſent ſpecial occaſion, unto the ſaid Robert R. Livingſton, eſquire, for and during and until the firſt day of April next and no longer. In teſtimony whereof we have cauſed theſe our letters to be made patent, and our great ſeal of this our ſtate to be hereunto affixed. Witneſs our truſty and well beloved George Clinton, eſquire, governor of our ſaid ſtate, general and commander in chief of all the militia, and admiral of the navy of the ſame, at Poughkeepſie, in our county of Dutcheſs, this eighth day of November, in the fourth year of our independence, and in the year of our Lord one thouſand ſeven hundred and ſeventy-nine.

(Signed) GEORGE CLINTON.

"with the great ſeal of the ſtate appendant.

Endorſed. "Paſſed the ſecretary's office, the 8th of Novem-"ber, 1779.

(Signed) JOHN MORIN SCOTT, ſecretary of the ſtate."

Congreſs

Congreſs took into conſideration the report of the medical committee on the hoſpital ſtaff; whereupon

Reſolved, That the director general, deputy directors general, the aſſiſtant deputy directors, the phyſicians and ſurgeons general of the hoſpitals and army, the ſenior ſurgeons, the ſecond or junior ſurgeons, the apothecaries general, and apothecaries mates or aſſiſtants, the hoſpital chaplains, regimental ſurgeons and mates, mates of the military hoſpitals, commiſſaries, aſſiſtant commiſſaries, paymaſters and ſtewards of the hoſpital, who ſhall have been in the ſervice for the ſpace of one year, and are at preſent employed in the ſame, ſhall each be entitled annually to draw cloathing from the ſtores of the cloathier general, in the ſame manner and under the ſame regulations as are eſtabliſhed for officers of the line by a reſolution of Congreſs of the 26th day of November, 1777.

Reſolved, That until the further order of Congreſs the following officers of the military hoſpital ſhall be entitled to ſubſiſtance in like manner as is granted to officers of the line by a reſolution of the 18th day of Auguſt laſt, and in the following proportions, viz.

Each deputy director general,	500 dollars per month.
Each aſſiſtant deputy director,	400 do.
Each phyſician general and ſurgeon gen.	500 do.
Each phyſician and ſurgeon general,	500 do.
Each ſenior ſurgeon,	400 do.
Each junior ſurgeon,	300 do.
Each apothecary general,	400 do.
Each apothecary's aſſiſtant or mate,	100 do.
Each commiſſary,	300 do.
Each commiſſary's aſſiſtant,	200 do.
Each clerk, who is to be paymaſter,	200 do.
Each ſteward,	100 do.
Each chaplain,	400 do.

The ſame to commence from the 18th day of Auguſt laſt.

Reſolved, That all mates neceſſarily employed in the military hoſpital or army ſhall, during ſervice, be entitled to the ſame ſubſiſtance as is given to regimental mates, viz. one hundred dollars per month.

Reſolved, That the remainder of the report be re-committed.

The committee to whom was referred the letter of the 17th of October laſt from Mr. P. Schuyler, brought in a report:

Ordered, That it be taken into conſideration on Tueſday next.

Adjourned to ten o'clock on Monday.

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